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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2006

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TWELVE SACRAMENTO RESIDENTS CHARGED WITH FILING FALSE FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS

SACRAMENTO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and IRS Criminal Investigation Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Roger L. Wirth announced today that a federal grand jury returned 12 indictments charging 11 current Sacramento-area residents, and one former Sacramento resident with filing false federal income tax returns.

These cases were investigated by the IRS, Criminal Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Samantha Spangler, who is prosecuting these cases, the indictments were unsealed yesterday upon each defendant's arrest, charging that the defendants each filed one or more false Individual Federal Income Tax returns seeking refunds of taxes allegedly withheld and as well as claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit. The defendants allegedly supported their false refund claims with Forms W-2 that set forth false amounts of wages and taxes withheld. The Earned Income Tax Credit provides low-income working taxpayers with a refundable credit if they have earned income below a certain threshold amount. The credit will generate a refund credit to the taxpayer if little or no income tax is owed. According to these indictments, the Earned Income Credit was falsely claimed because the earned income was fictitious.

The defendants are each charged with from one to three counts of filing false tax returns - one count for each year that the defendant submitted a false tax return(s). The individuals charged, the tax years, and loss to the government are set forth below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Tax Year(s)</u>	<u>Total of Loss-Gov't.</u>
NIENETA A. BLAND	28	Sacramento	2003, 2004	\$9,808
ROSIE LEE BROOKS	45	Sacramento	2003, 2004, 2005	\$15,055
TRACY ANET BUTLER	31	Sacramento	2002, 2003, 2004	\$11,814
TAQUISHA DIONNE DORSEY	29	W. Sacramento	2002, 2003, 2004	\$16,914

HAZEL LAVERNE EDWARDS	49	Sacramento	2003, 2004	\$9,064
DANIELLE DENIECE ERVIN	28	Sacramento	2003, 2004	\$10,529
STACEY LAKENYA HARRIS	25	Sacramento	2002, 2004	\$6,608
CANTRELL MONIQUE HILLS	23	Sacramento	2001, 2002, 2004	\$12,447
RICHARD ALFRED LOVETT, II	31	Sacramento	2002, 2003, 2004	\$13,757
NATALIE SHAZETTE REED	25	Sacramento	2004	\$6,755
DORIS MARIE SMITH	51	Sacramento	2003, 2004	\$8,558
VIKEYA LOVETTE WILLIAMS	22	Omaha, Nebraska	2003, 2004	\$8,717

United States Attorney Scott said, "With tax day fast-approaching, this series of tax fraud indictments should give pause to those considering cheating the federal government. The IRS is to be commended for their diligence and hard work in building these cases."

According to IRS SAC Roger L. Wirth, "Filing of completely false tax returns represents a significant investigative priority for IRS. The numerous indictments resulting from this investigation should make it clear that IRS is committed to combating false tax refund schemes and sending the perpetrators to prison."

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for each offense of filing a false tax return is 5 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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